



February 9, 2011

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**JOINT ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ON SB 58 –**  
**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FEE FOR THE USE OF PLASTIC AND PAPER BAGS**

Honorable Members of the Joint Environment Committee:

I am here today on behalf of the Progressive Bag Affiliates of the American Chemistry Council. The PBA is an industry group representing plastic bag manufacturers, plastic resin producers, and plastics recyclers. We appreciate having the opportunity to address you today on **Senate Bill 58**, which proposes to require retailers to charge a 5 cent tax on plastic or paper shopping bags provided to customers. Our comments will focus specifically on plastic bags.

We understand and support the Legislature's desire to reduce environmental impacts of litter and waste. However, this tax proposal will only serve to hurt the State's existing plastic bag manufacturers and potentially kill jobs, specifically among Connecticut's plastic bag manufacturers and distributors.

It is our position that the unintended environmental and economic consequences of a bag tax would outweigh any intended benefits. Therefore, **we cannot support SB 58.**

**More States and Local Governments Seeking To Increase Recycling**

Our industry supports increased *recycling* as the environmentally sustainable way to properly reduce the environmental impacts of plastic bags.

While some proponents of a bag tax would argue that recycling of plastic bags would not be impacted, we need to dispute this contention because of the following considerations:

- A bag tax is specifically intended to drive consumers away from them. This would have the contradictory effect of drastically diminishing the very supply of post-consumer plastic bags available for recycling.
- Recycling and taxes are *not* complementary; they are mutually exclusive. This is because the one (tax) has a direct, negative impact on the other (recycling).